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Sponsor Panel: Research Resilience in the Age of COVID-19

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National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

There are a lot of people who care!

OUTLINE

- NIH Update
- Personal Reflections
- NIH Resources

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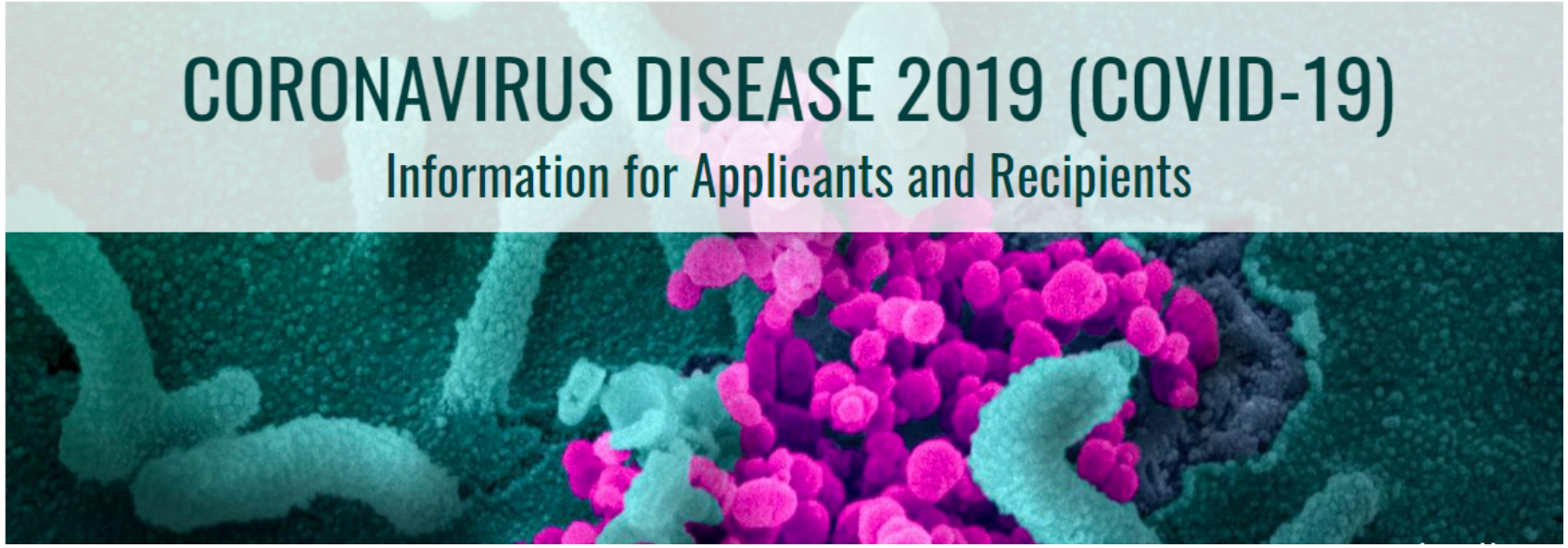
Stay Up to Date

This is a rapidly evolving situation

Information provided in this presentation is current as of June 15, 2020



Visit this page and check back often for updates!

https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus.htm

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Patient Care and Researcher Safety is the First Priority

- The NIH is deeply concerned for the health and safety of people involved in NIH research, and about the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency on the biomedical enterprise.
- NIH is providing many administrative flexibilities to help the research continue.

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Source: Overview presentation (Powerpoint) – updated 6/15/2020

NIH is Open for Business

- Extramural staff are working remotely
- We continue to process applications and make awards
- We are conducting peer review meetings virtually
- We are working diligently to provide funding opportunities to support COVID-19 research

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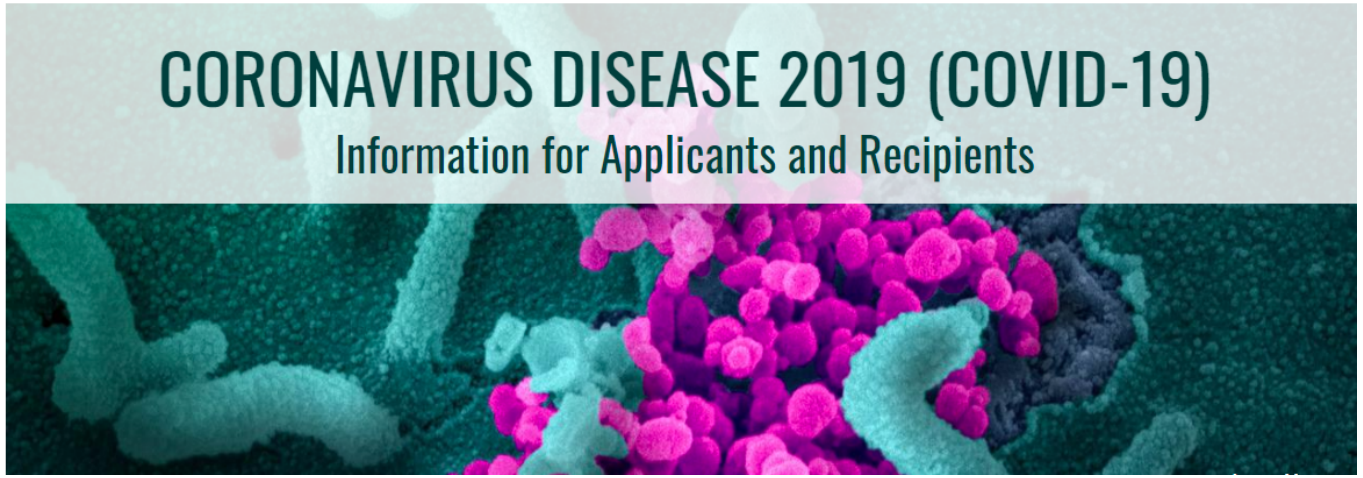
Source: Overview presentation (Powerpoint) – updated 6/15/2020

COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

- Funding through competing supplements, administrative supplements, new awards
- Many opportunities listed on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding website



Source: Overview presentation (Powerpoint) – updated 6/15/2020

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Application Deadlines, Salaries & Stipends, and Administrative Flexibilities

- Application Deadlines
  - The community is being updated about late application and deadline extensions via notice for select FOAs.
  - Late application policy notices are listed on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding website.
- Salaries & Stipends
  - If unable to work on grant or training activities, salaries and stipends may be charged to NIH grants.
  - Ensure that your organization's policy allows such charges from federal and non-federal funds.
  - Prior approval is not required to divert faculty from research to clinical work related to COVID-19 until the end of the public health emergency period.

Learn more: NOT-OD-20-086

FAQs: grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm

Source: Overview presentation (Powerpoint) – updated 6/15/2020

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Application Deadlines, Salaries & Stipends and Administrative Flexibilities (continued)

- Administrative Flexibilities
  - OMB has authorized agencies to utilize administrative flexibilities to recipients conducting COVID-19 research and recipients affected by COVID-19
  - NIH is allowing:
    - Pre-award costs to be incurred
    - Extensions of post-award reporting
    - Prior approval requirement waivers
    - Numerous flexibilities regarding expenditures of funds

Learn more: NOT-OD-20-086

FAQs: grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm

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Accommodations for Loss of Research Time

- Extensions for early stage investigator eligibility due to COVID-19-related disruptions will be considered
- NIH will be flexible with extending time constraints for fellowship, career development, and training awards, including phased awards

FAQs: grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm

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Personal Reflections

- Be/Think Positive: NIH has a broad mission
  - Addressing a public health emergency is just one aspect of NIH's mission
  - Learn about which NIH IC is most appropriate for your science
- You might feel like you are the only one
  - Many are in a similar situation
  - This is one of many chapters in your career trajectory
- Be honest with yourself and others about your COVID-19 challenges (research, clinical, and personal)
  - Realign expectations (yours and others) if necessary
  - Needs and asks might be different now
- Honor You
  - You are well trained and have marketable skills
  - Be true to your passion: Shall I pivot toward COVID19?
  - Do things to cultivate mental and physical resilience
  - Don't forget that many people care

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Be Strategic

- Find the people who are willing to help
  - Work with your mentors (e.g., developing revised timelines, look funding sources)
  - Find ways to extend your network (e.g., National Research Mentoring Network, Great Minds in STEM, professional societies)
  - Talk to people who might help implement your short-term goals (e.g., protecting some of your time from clinical and/or teaching activities)
  - Contact NIH Program Staff, as needed
- Opportunities
  - Learn more about NIH (e.g., study some FOAs, watch open sessions of IC's Councils)
  - Perhaps learn new skills (e.g., quantitative data skills, online teaching)
  - Work on a back-burner manuscript

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NIH Resources

- NRSA FOAs
  - Diversity F31 (PA-20-251)
  - Individual Senior Fellowship (Parent F33) (PA-20-247)
  - Parent F30 (PA-20-245)
  - Parent F32 (PA-20-242)
- NIH as a training site/employer
  - Office of Intramural Training and Education: https://www.training.nih.gov/home
  - NIH Intramural: https://irp.nih.gov/careers
  - NIH Extramural: https://www.usajobs.gov/
- Sign up for relevant IC's e-newsletters
- Webinars
  - Webinar for Postdoctoral Research Associate Training (PRAT) Program Applicants
  - Upcoming Webinars for the NIGMS Training Community: Watch live or later

THANK YOU!!

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